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WASHINGTON

The Senate Intelligence Committee never has been given "conclusive information" to back up the Reagan administration's charge that Nicaragua is sending arms to El Salvador, committee vice chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., said Wednesday.

The issue was raised this week when a former analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, David MacMichael, said such claims are based on outdated information, and that administration officials are misleading Congress.

"The intelligence committee has not been presented with any conclusive information on the subject," Moynihan said.

State Department and CIA officials have rejected MacMichael's claims, but have not released evidence that arms flows are continuing.

"The federal intelligence agency has an obligation to answer Mr. MacMichael with facts," Moynihan said.

MacMichael, 56, produced intelligence estimates on Central America for the CIA's National Intelligence Council under a two-year contract through March 1983. The contract was not renewed.

Moynihan has supported the use of U.S. funds to arm the rebels who are attempting to overthrow Nicaragua's government. He has based his support on the premise that Nicaragua is a threat to other Central American governments.

The committee said the panel had evidence that convinced him the limit had been exceeded by charging expenses of the mining to an a considered poor. Moynihan declined to give his assessment of the prospects of continued U.S. aid for the rebels.

"Let me just leave it there, will you? This may all break out pretty quickly now," he said. "It's awful ... not knowing what you really responsibly can say."

The Senate and House intelligence committees monitor the activities of the country's intelligence agencies. Moynihan offered to resign his vice chairmanship over a flap with the CIA last April, when he accused agency officials of withholding information about their role in the mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

That incident led to a new oversight agreement that he said was signed last Thursday by CIA Director William Casey, committee chairman Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and himself.

"The key to it is, if the president must approve (a CIA action), the committee must be informed," Moynihan said.

"In terms of congressional oversight ... it's the most important event since the Intelligence Act of 1980," he said. "We have a set of rules now which put into a specific routine the requirement of the statute that we be kept currently informed of any 'significant anticipated activity.'"